

23. (Original) A connection assembly in accordance with claim 21, wherein parts of said fastening assembly include a dielectric material.

24. (Currently Amended) A connection assembly in accordance with claim 22, wherein: each of said first and second members has one or more ~~a~~ second through openings extending from the first surface to the second surface of that member; said dielectric member includes one or more second through openings extending from the first surface to the second surface of the dielectric member; each of the second through openings in said first member has a corresponding second through opening in said second member and the corresponding through openings in said first and second members align with a second through opening in said dielectric member; and said fastening assembly includes one or more fastening units, each of said fastening units coupling with corresponding second through openings in the first and second members and the aligned second through opening in said dielectric member.

25. (Original) A connection assembly in accordance with claim 24, wherein each of said fastening units includes a dielectric tube extending through the corresponding second through openings in the first and second members and the aligned second through opening in said dielectric member coupling with that fastening unit.

26. (Original) A connection assembly in accordance with claim 25, wherein each of said fastening units further includes a bolt, a first dielectric washer, a second dielectric washer, and a securing member for securing said bolt.

27. (Original) A connection assembly in accordance with claim 26, wherein for each of the fastening units: the bolt passes through the dielectric tube; the first dielectric washer is located at the head end of the bolt adjacent the second surface of one of said first

dielectric member; and the first surface of said dielectric member faces the first surface of one of said first and second members and the second surface of said dielectric member faces the first surface of the other of said first and second members.

42. (Original) A fuel-cell stack assembly in accordance with claim 41, wherein the first surface of each of said first and second members includes a raised sealing face outward of the through opening of that member; and the first surface of said dielectric member outward of the through opening of the dielectric member abuts a part of the raised sealing face on the first surface of said one of said first and second members and the second surface of the dielectric member outward of the through opening of the dielectric member abuts a part of the raised sealing face on the first surface of the other of said first and second members.

43. (Original) A fuel-cell stack assembly in accordance with claim 42, wherein each of said first and second members includes a weld-neck on the second surface of that member outward of the through opening of that member.

44. (Original) A fuel-cell stack assembly in accordance with claim 43, wherein said connection assembly further comprises a fastening assembly for fastening said first and second members and said dielectric member together as a unit.

45. (Currently Amended) A fuel-cell stack assembly in accordance with claim 44, wherein: each of said first and second members has one or more second through openings extending from the first surface to the second surface of that member; said dielectric member includes one or more second through openings extending from the first surface to the second surface of the dielectric member; each of the second through openings in said first member has a corresponding second through opening in said second member and the corresponding through openings in said first and second members align with a second through opening in